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Remarks

The Office Action mailed January 28, 2004, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1-12, 14, 15 and 17-26 are pending. Claims 1-12, 14, 15, 17-19 and 23 are allowed. Claims 20-22 and 24-26 stand rejected. Claims 20-22 and 24-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to because newly submitted FIG. 1 did not contain sequence identifiers which were present in the original drawing. FIG. 1 has been amended to include both the original SEQ ID NO. references noted in the originally filed figure, and the corresponding column references (II-1, II-2, II-3 and II-4) as amended in the Response dated October 28, 2003. No new matter is added.

Rejection under 35 USC §102/103

Claims 20-22 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Fahy (WO 96/30545) and Lundberg et al. (Gene, vol. 108, pp. 1-6, 1991). Claims 20-22 and 24-26 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, the rejection of these claims is moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Conclusion

Claims 1 through 12, 14, 15, 17-19 and 23 have been indicated as allowable. No other claims are currently pending in the present application. Thus, a timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance in this case is therefore respectfully requested. Should the Office determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, it is respectfully invited to contact applicant's attorney of record at the address or telephone number given herein.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 24, 2004

KWP/lb

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

Document in ProLaw

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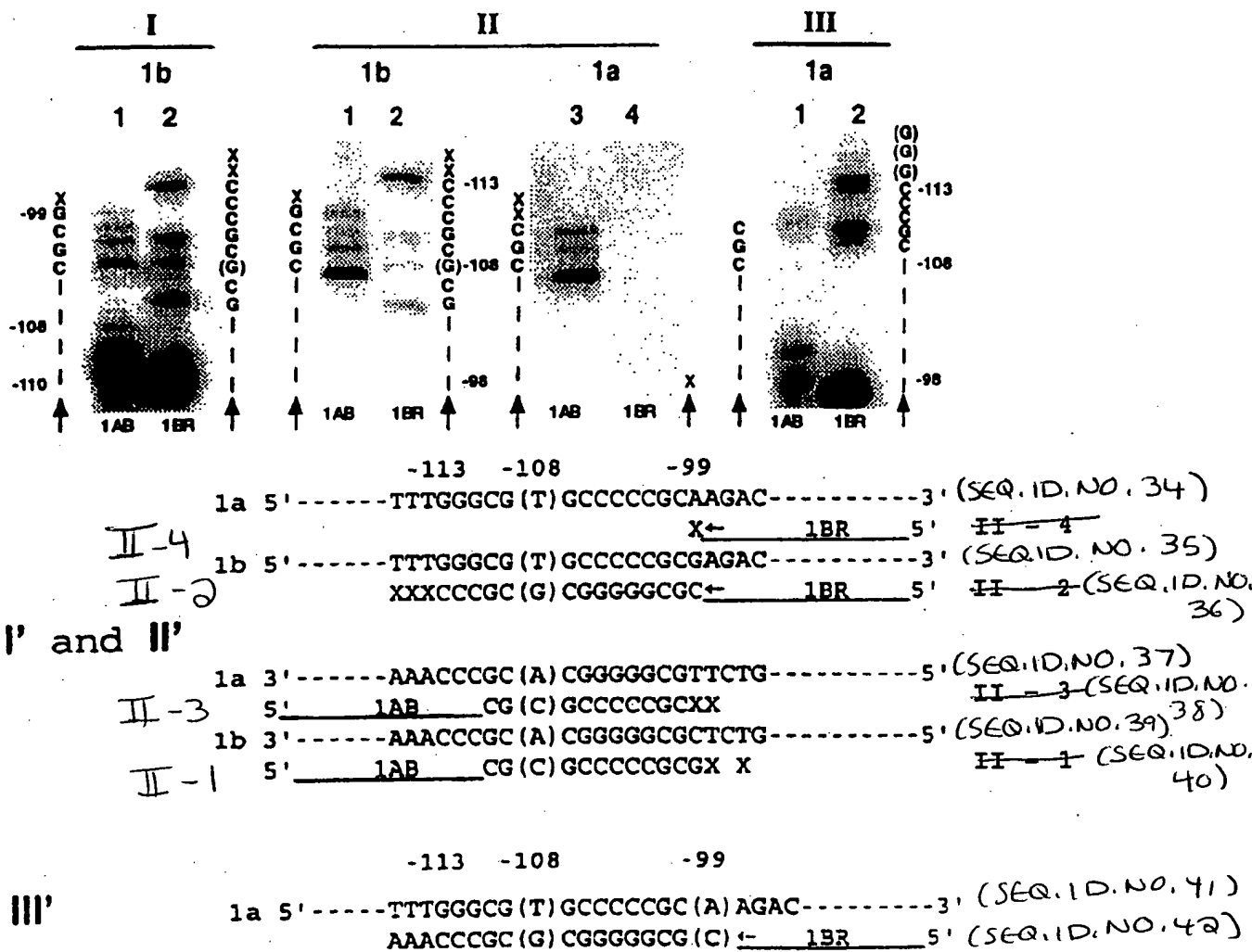


FIG. 1